

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 4-14 are pending. Applicants have amended claim 1 to incorporate the elements of claim 2 as originally filed. Applicants have canceled claim 2. Applicants have amended claims 13 and 14 to correctly recite their dependency from claim 12 as suggested by the Examiner. These amendments raise no new issues and should therefore be entered.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 9 are rejected under 35 USC 102(e) on Meyers (U.S. Patent No. 6,137,535). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 1, 4, 5, and 9.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite an image input apparatus that forms two-dimensional images “such that each two-dimensional image is an image of substantially the same area of an object in the identical area as seen from a different view point.” This element of claim 1 is not disclosed or suggested in Myers. In Myers, the “lenslets 12, combined with the appropriate field stop aperture plate 72, form images of a small segment of the field of view on each sub-group of photodetectors 22.” (Myers, col. 6, lines 6-8) The Examiner conceded that this is the way the structure of Myers works, by asserting in the rejection of claim 2, that the “plurality of microlenses 10 which are the image formation units receive light from different areas can be read as light received from different viewpoints.” This structure of Myers is further detailed in Figure 2 and col. 4, lines 47-62, of Myers, wherein Myers discloses reliance on the individual lenses of the lenslet array being radially decentered so that different segments of a “whole field of view” can be observed. By arranging the microlenses of Myers to “see different fields of view” (Myers, col. 4, lines 47 and 48) Myers distinguishes itself from the invention as recited in claim 1, wherein the lenses see substantially the same field of view from different viewing angles.

Claim 10 is rejected under 35 USC 103 (a) on Meyers in view of Waldern (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2001/0043163 A1) and in further view of Hirukawa (U.S. Patent No. 6,249,335). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection. Neither Waldern nor Hirukawa discloses forming two-dimensional images such that each two-dimensional image is an image of substantially the

same area of an object as seen from a different view point, as recited in claim 1, and the Examiner has not asserted that either Waldern or Hirukawa makes such a disclosure. Therefore claim 10 is allowable for at least the same reasons stated above with regard to claim 1.

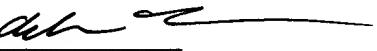
Claim 11 is rejected under 35 USC 103(a) on Meyers in view of Waldern and in further view of Zarschitzky (U.S. Patent No. 5,712,730). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection. Neither Waldern nor Zarschitzky discloses forming two-dimensional images such that each two-dimensional image is an image of substantially the same area of an object as seen from a different view point, as recited in claim 1, and the Examiner has not asserted that either Waldern or Zarschitzky makes such a disclosure. Therefore claim 11 is allowable for at least the same reasons stated above with regard to claim 1.

Applicants submit that claims 1 and 4-14 are in condition for immediate allowance. Early action allowing the claims is therefore solicited.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicants petition for any required relief including extensions of time and authorize the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing docket no. 325772019100.

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